

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 728

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION expressing support for the "25 by 25" initiative and the increased production of renewable energy by the agricultural community.

WHEREAS, having an affordable, reliable, and plentiful energy supply is critical to our economy, as well as our national and international food supply; and

WHEREAS, current and future risks to U.S. energy security are mounting, while domestic and global energy demands are growing exponentially; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee and the Southeast have tremendous renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, the development of a broad spectrum of renewable energy sources, including wind power, biodiesel, biomass, methane digesters, ethanol, and solar, benefits the environment and will have a direct economic benefit to agricultural landowners and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, rural communities and agriculture sectors will experience multiple benefits from the development of renewable energy sources, including the establishment of additional markets for agricultural commodities; an increase in farm income; the creation of added-value uses for crops, livestock, and their byproducts; the more productive use of marginal lands; the resolution of air, water, and soil quality problems that may arise from agricultural operations; the improvement of wildlife habitat; and the creation of many new job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, solar and wind energy can be captured on the vast land areas managed by U.S. agriculture, and technology and production capabilities allow America's farmers and ranchers to play a major role in ensuring a fully sustainable U.S. energy system; and

WHEREAS, American agriculture is well positioned to play an expanded role in the development and implementation of new energy solutions, and with appropriate technological

innovation, incentives, and investments, America's farms and ranches can become the factories that produce a new generation of fuels to help meet the nation's energy needs; and

WHEREAS, "25 by 25" is an agriculturally-led initiative that envisions America's farms and ranches producing twenty-five percent (25%) of America's energy demand by the year 2025, while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber; and

WHEREAS, agriculture's role as an energy producer will have a positive effect on national security and trade imbalances and will serve as a catalyst for rural development in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby expresses its unequivocal support for the vision of the "25 by 25" initiative whereby agriculture will provide twenty-five percent (25%) of the total energy consumed in the United States by the year 2025, while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of Tennessee's delegation to the U.S. Congress.